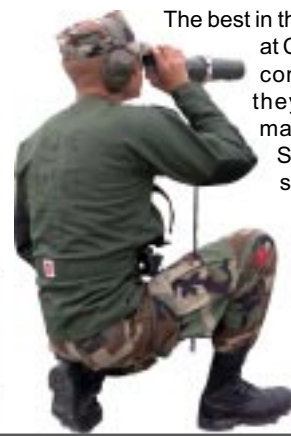


Okinawa MARINE



The best in the Far East gathered at Camp Hansen for stiff competition to prove they had quality marksmanship skills. See page 10-11 for story and photos.

February 16, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

INSIDE

NEWS

Brake experts visit to help improve LVS brake system

A team of brake experts from Nevada Automotive Test Center, Carson City, Nev., visited Okinawa to teach Marines how to improve the brake systems on the Logistical Vehicle System.

see page 3 for more

NEWS

Local Marine furthers his career with lateral move

A Marine sergeant takes advantage of the opportunities in the Marine Corps by selecting a new career field as a computer technician after spending five years as an infantryman.

see page 5 for more

FEATURE

3d FSSG rolls out on top at III MEF Truck Rodeo

2nd Annual III Marine Expeditionary Force Truck Rodeo awards top honors to the Motor Transportation Marines of 3d Force Service Support Group. 3d FSSG sweeps the event, proving their knowledge and skill.

see pages 12 for more

SPORTS

Giants battle for win at flag football Super Bowl

Giants prove they can stand above the rest as they go home Super Bowl champions Jan. 28. The Giants earned their championship win against the Kadena T-birds after defeating five teams.

see page 16 for more

LEISURE

Citrus lovers head for the hills to pick tangerines

For the last 24 years local tangerine growers have opened their orchards to anyone craving for the sweet taste of orange tankan. As the Tangerine-picking season comes to a close some say now is the best time to pick.

see page 17 for more

FORECAST



Today

high 56 low 50



Saturday

high 58 low 49



Sunday

high 62 low 57

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LCPL M. D. HENRY

Navy digs in

Navy PO3 Rodney Johnson, Mechanic, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, takes position and turns his sights toward attacking aggressors at the Jungle Warfare Training Center. Exercises at JWTC are conducted by the Seabees annually in Combat Town. During these exercises, Seabees practice using defensive positions to simulate working in a combat environment.

WICO program helps families in time of need

SSGT JASON M. WEBB
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — The Women, Infants and Children Overseas program opened its doors for eligible service members, SOFA status employees and their families in a ribbon cutting ceremony here and on Kadena Air Base Feb. 7.

The WICO program, making its debut on Okinawa, will also host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Camp Kinser satellite office today with plans on opening a fourth office on Camp Courtney in the near future.

According to Emily Bartz, Team Leader, WICO office here, the primary goal of the WICO program is to improve the health status and well-being of all participants. The program offer health and nutrition assessment, counseling, and referrals to all participants using a well-trained, skilled and competent staff.

The WICO program gives participants counseling in all the options open to eligible members. Each person fits into one of the various categories such

as prenatal, postpartum, breast-feeding mother for up to one year, infants up to twelve months and children up to the age of 5.

"There is not a timeframe for how long a person can be on the program. They can continue as long as they meet the income requirements, and until their child reaches their first month of their 5th birthday," Bartz said.

The WICO program uses a system of vouchers that can be redeemed at the local commissary for such items as baby formula, milk, cheese, peanut butter, fruit juices and vegetables. Each participant receives a certain amount of vouchers every three months depending on their specified program. Every six months the participants are reevaluated and certified to see if the program is meeting their needs.

Even though the WICO program's main focus is on pregnant women and children 5 years and younger, some service members do not seek help from the services available.

"Some people don't think they are eligible for the program because of their

rank. We look at how many are in the family and what their monthly income is. You could be an O7 and have seven kids, and, depending on your income, you could be eligible for our services," Bartz added.

For one service member's spouse, Sarah Page, who had previously been on the WIC program in California and recently had another baby, the WICO program is seen as vital towards keeping the grocery bills down.

"The main reason I started on the program was for financial reasons, but I found out there were a lot of educational classes. Everytime I picked up my vouchers there were always new classes and videos available. It was nice having a helping hand," Page added.

Service members and SOFA-status employees who feel they are eligible for the WICO program can see a counselor who specializes in maternal, infant care and nutrition at the four local offices or by calling 645-WICO.

"(The WICO program) carries a good reputation. I would recommend it for anyone because it is a positive experience," Page said.

Report traffic violations at 645-7441/7442

Carson City team visit to improve LVS brakes

LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP KINSER — Some of the Corps' largest transport vehicles are about to become a whole lot safer. A team of brake experts from Nevada Automotive Test Center, Carson City, Nev., recently visited Marines here to teach them how to improve the brake systems on the Logistical Vehicle System.

The team began training Marine mechanics here Jan. 22.

The program will increase the safety of the LVS while upgrading safety standards concurrent with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 121.

Many vehicles in the military, including the LVS, are exempt from the FMVS standards.

The Marine Corps is improving the brakes on the LVS to make a safe vehicle even safer, according to MSgt Walter L. Morgan, Motor Transport Chief, Marine Corps System Command, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.

Each member of the team is training four to five Marines on how to add the new safety features to the LVS.

During the week-long training program, the Marines spend just a few hours in the classroom; the rest of the time they're receiving hands-on training, said Bob Saxby, Trainer, NATC. "At the end of the program two Marines will be able to add the new features onto an LVS in 40 hours."

The Marines also learned to add additional air

tanks and a new air compressor. The new tanks significantly increase the brakes' reaction time according to Saxby. The Marines are also adding improved brake pads and anti-lock brakes to the vehicles.

"The new anti-lock brakes are going to help the LVS stop in a straight line, which will help prevent fishtailing and decrease the number of rollovers," Saxby said. "The improvements are directed toward making the LVS a safer and better vehicle."

When the improvements are added, the Marines will be tested on what they learned. They will take a 35-question test and test the vehicle itself.

"We will take the vehicle, drive down a straight road at 20 miles per hour, and slam on the brakes," Saxby said. "How long the vehicle takes to come to a complete stop will determine if it passes or not."

After the Marines pass the two tests, they will be qualified to train other Marines on the brake improvements.

"This training will reflect in the Marines' record books after qualifying to be instructors," Saxby said.

After the team finishes traveling around to different Marine bases, the improved LVS will show the Marine Corps it spent its money well.

"The cost of saving a Marine life with these improvements is worth far more than the amount the Marine Corps spent on this program," Saxby added.



LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT
Sgt KwaiBena D. Edwards, Mechanic, Motor Transport Maintenance Co, 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d FSSG, loosens the brake system on a LVS during hands on training regarding how to add the brake improvements.

Naval Hospital research focuses on deployments

LCPL CHAD SWAIM
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP LESTER — A new research program is underway at the Nursing Research Department, U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa, to study the needs of family members at an overseas duty station during deployments. The program started in August and will last for one year.

The purpose of the study is to show which family needs are not being addressed at naval hospitals and clinics while a family member is deployed, according to Navy Capt Peggy A. McNulty, Head Researcher, NRD.

"We want to compare families who are in a deployed status to the ones who don't lose mom or dad, and see if there are different issues with stress or family needs that we as a command aren't meeting," Capt McNulty said.

The program is going to focus on family members from the Navy, Marine Corps and Army, but will also include Air Force family members

coming to the USNH for obstetrical visits, according to Capt McNulty.

"We want to know who we take care of here and how we can improve," Capt McNulty said.

However, the program needs more families that will be affected by deployments, according to Capt McNulty.

"We have the non-deployed group pretty much filled up," she said. "What I really need is to identify families whose spouses are due to leave within the next two to three months."

Capt McNulty explains that getting signed up for the program is a relatively simple process. It involves answering a set of questions that measure how they are doing before the spouse deploys and a second set right before the spouse gets back. The answers are completely anonymous and enrolled families can answer all of the questions through mail. A final report will be available when the research is finished.

The program has been made possible by a grant from Tri-Service Nursing Research, which is funded by the Army, Navy and Air Force.

No one has ever done a study like this at an overseas base. It will be the first one of its kind, according to Capt McNulty.

"The Navy and Marine Corps really want to look at the needs of families that deploy," Capt McNulty said. "The top dogs will get the reports and we will definitely use the data."

For more information on the project, or to participate in the study call 643-7870.



Capt McNulty

Administration offices form MCPAC

SSGT NATHAN L. HANKS, JR.
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — The Consolidated Administration offices for Marine Corps Base and numerous units within 1st Marine Aircraft Wing merged to form Marine Corps Personnel Administrative Center here Jan. 10.

The center was officially opened by MajGen James E. Cartwright, Commanding General, 1st MAW, and BGen Willie J. Williams, Commanding General, MCB, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held Jan. 29 near Headquarters and Service Battalion, MCB, at Bldg. 5699.

"Headquarters Marine Corps mandated the consolidation of traditional personnel administration shops from the squadron and battalion level to one shop at the regimental level," said CW03 Michael E. Jackson, Officer-in-Charge, MCPAC, H&S Bn, MCB.

The consolidation increases proficiency and effectiveness, according to BGen Williams. The consolidation is part of the Marine Corps plan to realign forces by taking administrative billets and returning them to the operating forces, such as the infantry.

The Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron-1 and Marine Air Group-36 were the first units within the 1st MAW to be integrated into the new system. The migration of the remaining units will be complete by March 31.

MCPAC will provide administrative support to more than 5,000 Marines and their families, according to CW03 Jackson.

"This will be a one-stop shop. The Marines can come to one location and get all their administrative needs completed," said WO Daniel S. Rouse, OIC, New Join Department, MCPAC.

Before MCPAC consolidated, a Marine's port call could have been routed through three or more shops before reaching a level that action could be taken. Then, that Marine would wait for the results to filter back down through those shops before receiving an answer.

"Now, we have made it easier by cutting out the middle man," said LCpl Anthony S. Molnar, Orders Clerk, MCPAC, H&S Bn, MCB. "The Marines no longer have to go to two or three different places because it can be done right here."

"Plans began August 2000 for this MCPAC site," said CW04 Doug J. Parks, Total Force Administrative Coordinator, 1st MAW. "There are plans to build a bigger center on Camp Foster called MCPAC, Okinawa, which is to be completed in the future."

The future MCPAC, Okinawa will be a consolidation of all administrative shops islandwide, according to CW04 Parks. Each camp will have a satellite office to take care of basic administrative needs.

The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. For more information call New Join Department, 645-7458/7459, Pay Department, 645-0879/5388, Orders Department, 645-0867/0868, Services Department, 645-8441.

Local office helps service members attain citizenship

LCPL CHAD SWAIM
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — The Pass and Identification office here now provides assistance to military members and their families who are seeking U.S. citizenship.

In April of last year, a naturalization liaison position was created to assist personnel.

The office provides needed forms and assistance with filling them out before being sent to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for processing.

To become a U.S. citizen, applicants must have held a resident alien card, also known as a Green Card, for five years, or have served as a member of the U.S. military for three years, according to Sonia Fife, naturalization liaison at the Pass and I.D. office.

"When they come here we give them the application packets," Fife said. "We go over the forms and make sure they are filled out correctly and that all the information, photographs and fingerprints are ready to be sent off."

I tried during a four-month period to apply using the Internet, said Kaori Martinez, community relations officer, Marine Corps Base. "At the Pass and I.D. office it only took a day."

The only portion of the application process that can't be done at the office is fingerprinting.

"The fingerprints have to be done, sealed and signed by the Provost Marshal's Office," Fife said. "The INS usually takes the fingerprints."

When application information is checked over and corrected it is sent to Immigration and Naturalization Service for processing. After the INS receives the application packet and accepts the person for an interview, the applicant can decide where to go for the interview and swearing-in process.

The applicants can request an interview at any INS office.

After the interview it usually takes one to three months to get sworn in as US citizens. If applicants go to Guam or Hawaii they can have their interview and be sworn in, in just a couple of days, according to Fife.

The interview ensures applicants understand how to read, write and speak English, know some American history, and answer basic questions such as colors of the U.S. flag, and what holiday is celebrated on July 4, according to Fife.

Since the naturalization liaison position opened, more than 600 people have attained their citizenship, according to Fife.

The office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No appointment is needed to pick up forms, but one is needed to review the applications for accuracy and neatness.

"The reviewing process takes anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes," Fife said. "I do take walk-ins if business is slow."

For more information, contact Sonia Fife at 645-2023.



SGT JASON S. SCHAAP
 Sgt James W. Pruitt, Quality Control NCO, Electronics Maintenance Company, 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, is a former infantryman and one of many Marines who have made successful lateral movements into new military occupational specialties.

Moving laterally in the Corps

In a time of expanding technology, many Marines look to learn new skills by changing occupations

SGT JASON S. SCHAAP
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP BUTLER — For five years, Sgt James W. Pruitt was proud to claim the title 0311, the well-known number designation for a Marine Corps infantryman.

Now, Sgt Pruitt is equally proud of his self-proclaimed title "computer geek," a term he and many others often use jokingly to describe his job as a Marine Corps computer technician.

Once a hard-charging trigger puller, Sgt Pruitt is now the quality control noncommissioned officer for Electronics Maintenance Company, 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group.

His new title is the result of a successful lateral movement, or more commonly known as "lat move" to Marines; when one moves from one military occupational specialty to another.

Sgt Pruitt is one of many Marines who have taken advantage of a Marine Corps where computer related and other high-skilled MOSs are critically short of manpower while less-skilled MOSs are overcrowded and/or closing.

Retention still remains a high priority. These conditions have made making a lat move a more attractive option for Marines.

But as interest in changing MOSs and retention needs increase, so have the questions concerning lat moves. The Marines who waded through the sea of lat move confusion and help fellow Marines acquire new jobs are career planners.

SSgt Andrew P. Wohlgenuth is a career planner for 3d MRB. He said many lat move details fall into the gray area between black and white. Although there are general rules that guide career planners in helping Marines apply for lat moves, Marines shouldn't assume a request will be automatically denied by the Marine Corps.

"These days, with retention (needs high), nothing is cut and dry," SSgt Wohlgenuth said. "You never know what you are going to get as an answer

to a lat move request."

Contrary to popular belief, not everyone is eligible to lat move, SSgt Wohlgenuth said. Ideal lat move candidates are first-term Marines in the last fiscal year of their contract and early- to mid-career Marines. However, more and more Marines are asking about lat moves too soon.

"There's a rumor that after Marines have been in the Corps two years they can request a lat move," SSgt Wohlgenuth said. "For the most part, first-termers' (requests) won't be accepted unless they are coming up for reenlistment."

Marines who have reenlisted at least once can request a lat move any time. However, SSgt Wohlgenuth said the best time might be at the end of their contract as well.

"A lat move is more than likely going to require a reenlistment," SSgt Wohlgenuth said. "Once you complete school (to learn your new MOS) you are obligated to so much time in that MOS, usually three to four years."

SSgt Wohlgenuth doesn't recommend career Marines wait too long to request a lat move either. As Marines move through the staff NCO ranks, promotion competition gets tougher and MOS credibility becomes more critical.

"Once you make a certain rank you need to stay in your MOS," SSgt Wohlgenuth said. "Once you get gunnery sergeant or master sergeant, it's unlikely they'll approve the lat move."

Senior staff NCO's aren't the only Marines likely to have lat move requests denied, according to SSgt Wohlgenuth. If a Marine is already in an MOS deemed critically short, there is little hope he or she will be allowed to lat move into a non-critical MOS.

"If a Marine in intelligence, which is a critical MOS, wants to move into supply, which is flooded, it isn't going to happen," SSgt Wohlgenuth said.

Each MOS has different qualifications. Some require an interview and/or background check. SSgt Wohlgenuth said the biggest obstacle for Marines seeking to lat move is usually their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score.

"Most of the technical MOS's are accepting lat moves," SSgt Wohlgenuth said. "But they're not particularly easy to get into because (Marines) have to have high ASVAB scores."

Ethnic diversity equals strength

PFC DAMIAN MCGEE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — "Diversity ... Strength in Unity" is a motto adapted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Office here. The importance of standing in unity is one of the reasons the Diversity Awareness Group takes time to celebrate and educate Marines about the multiple cultures embraced by the Marine Corps.

"Our purpose is to educate and inform the masses that there is strength in our diversity," said MGySgt Maurice A. Jones, the group's Founder and Former President.

MGySgt Jones helped start the Diversity Awareness Group in August 1998. After becoming a Equal Employment Opportunity Representative, he soon learned that there was more that could be done in the efforts of celebrating diversity.

"After taking a class to become one of the equal opportunity representatives, we couldn't believe all the things that should have been going on and were not," MGySgt Jones said.

Ethnic observances were limited to Camp Foster and Kadena Air Base, according to MGySgt Jones.

With this in mind, equal opportunity representatives began something that would undoubtedly have a profound impact on the Marines at Camp Hansen.

"We did it for the good of the camp (Hansen) in the long run," MGySgt Jones said. "Understanding one another leads to respecting one another."

The group is already credited with having put together Martin Luther King Day observances, Unity Runs, Women's symposiums, Holocaust observances, and many other programs.

The best thing about the programs is that they are for everyone, according to MGySgt Jones.

"One misconception is that the events we are preparing are for specific groups, i.e., Hispanics, Blacks, or Asians," MGySgt Jones said. "This is not true. Our events are open to everyone in hopes that by learning about one another, Marines will better understand one another."

The group is open to Marines, other service members, civilians, spouses



PFC DAMIAN MCGEE

Diversity was clearly displayed as Marines and Sailors of different races and ethnicities stood in unity during one of the most recent Unity Runs, sponsored by the Diversity Awareness Group.

and everyone else interested in trying to make a difference, according to MGySgt Jones.

"This group is for anyone that has a burning desire to help others and to promote harmony," MGySgt Jones said. "Volunteers are always sought, and our hands are always open in friendship and fellowship."

Overall, the group has headed in a positive direction, but its continued success will depend highly on the

number of people who get involved, according to MGySgt Jones.

"This group is only as good as the people that volunteer their time and talents for the common good," MGySgt Jones said.

Meetings for the Diversity Awareness Group are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group Conference Room.

Counselors strive to make a difference

SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — For 12 counselors at the Substance Abuse Counseling Center here, coming to work each day provides an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.

"Every case I see turns out to be unique," said Navy CPO Nelson E. Macabasco, Counselor, Substance Abuse Counseling Center, Marine Corp Community Services. "I know I can't help everyone, but the satisfaction I get when a recovering alcoholic comes back and thanks me for helping them is great."

There are two kinds of motivation for patients seeking help at the center with drug or alcohol-related problems; one which is ideal for treatment and the other which makes it tough to solve the problem, according to CPO Macabasco.

"Our patients either have an internal motivation to seek help or they are being forced by their command to seek help," said CPO Macabasco, who volunteered to be a counselor more than two years ago because he wanted to help people. "Internal motivation, where the patient is truly sincere about wanting help, is ideal for treatment. They are willing to listen to and apply the tools we give them to improve themselves."

"Situations where patients are being forced to get help, but in their hearts are not ready to recognize they have a problem, are our toughest challenge," he said.

Most of the center's patients are not interested in treatment and are forced to seek help by their commands, according to Dr. Howard P. Watson Jr., Director, Substance Abuse Counseling Center, Marine Corps Community Services.

"We have a lot of patients who are in denial," said GySgt Tommie J. Banks, Counselor, SACC. "They don't want to admit they have a problem. They don't realize

that alcoholism is a disease which is cunning and baffling. Without treatment it can ultimately destroy them."

"When I have a patient who is saying 'I don't have a problem', I get them to talk about their drinking experiences," said GySgt Banks, who has been a counselor for four years and is currently working on a degree in psychology. "Then, through these shared experiences, I try to open their horizons and show them how alcohol is taking control of their lives."

Whether service members or Department of Defense civilian employees are in denial or open to treatment, patients are screened and treatment is tailored to meet the needs of the individual.

"Regardless of their motivation, the counselors work together as a team and assess our patients

progress and needs on a daily basis," said CPO Macabasco. "We treat the person ... not the uniform or the rank. We listen to not just alcohol related problems, but also personal and spiritual. We do what we can to facilitate healing inside themselves — physically, psychologically and emotionally."

The center also educates patients, in the classroom and in one-on-one sessions, on what alcoholism is and how to treat it, according to CPO Macabasco.

"We show them how to identify triggers that make them drink and then we teach them how to deal with them," CPO Macabasco said. "We also try to show them how alcoholism affects them personally and financially."

The center also uses the Alcoholics Anonymous book and AA-type group sessions, where patients can share their experiences and learn from the experiences of others, according to CPO Macabasco.

"We give them the opportunity and the tools they need to help themselves," GySgt Banks said. "It's their choice whether they implement what we give them."

"If they don't apply what we give them," CPO Macabasco said. "chances are they will be back to see us again."

"It's their choice whether they implement what we give them."

- GySgt Tommie J. Banks

3/12 heads for Hijudai

CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — The Marines and Sailors of Battery C, 3d Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, recently headed to the snowy peaks of Hijudai, Japan, to participate in an artillery relocation training exercise.

Leaving behind the subtropical warmth of Okinawa, Btry C deployed to the mountainous region to train with its M198 Howitzers.

Btry C will spend a month working with Marines from supporting batteries to get rounds down range and on target. The teamwork represents the close relationship between the firing batteries and the support detachments.

Hijudai currently posts an average daily temperature of 10 degrees Fahrenheit and a nightly low of -35 degrees Fahrenheit. The unit issued all Marines and Sailors cold-weather gear to cope with the harsh weather conditions.

Planning to get all of the gear and personnel to the training area on time and properly prepared began several months ago.

"Consolidating all of the gear for this deployment was one big challenge," said Sgt Matthew Leatherwood, Embarkation Chief, 3/12. "Anytime the firing batteries find out they are going somewhere, my phone starts ringing."

"It is important the support Marines take their jobs seriously during the training exercise," 2ndLt Morgan J. Bevan said. "Every person in the headquarters element takes on more responsibilities in the field than they handle here at base on a daily basis. There is a lot to be learned from working in the field with the firing battery."

The unit returns to Okinawa the first week of March to prepare for other large-scale deployments scheduled for this spring.

NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for Feb. 4-10.

• Underage drinking

Three Lance Corporals with Battalion Landing Team 1/5, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, were found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 per month for two months and restriction ranging from 14-45 days.

A Lance Corporal with BIT 1/5, 31st MEU, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$283 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

Two Lance Corporals with 7th Communications Battalion, III MEF, were found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

Three Privates First Class with 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of pay ranging from \$500-584 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

A Lance Corporal with 3d MRB, 3d FSSG, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

A Lance Corporal with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

• Underage drinking and consuming alcohol less than eight hours before assuming duty

A Private First Class with 3d MRB, 3d FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of the above offenses. Punishment: forfeiture of \$272 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Drunk and disorderly

A Corporal with Marine Wing Support Squadron-172, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of drunk and disorderly conduct. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Drunken operation of a vehicle and violations of lawful orders

A Private First Class with MWSS-172, 1st MAW, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of the above offenses. Punishment: reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$521 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

COURTS MARTIAL

• A Lance Corporal assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 3d Marine Division, was sentenced to forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge, at a general court-martial on one specification of Article 92, underage drinking, Article 128, assault consummated by a battery, and Article 134, disorderly conduct.



USMC PHOTO

Happy birthday USO

Col Brendan P. Kearney, Commanding Officer, 4th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, and Camp Commander, Camp Schwab, and LCpl Douglas R. Cullins of Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, recently shared the first piece of cake during the United Services Organization's 60th birthday celebration at the Camp Schwab USO.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Summer hire program

The Civilian Human Resource Office, Marine Corps Base, will accept applications for the 2001 Summer Hire Program from Feb. 12 to June 29.

Kubasaki High School students may pick up applications at the CHRO.

Applications can be submitted to either Ms. Ramsey in Room 424 of Kubasaki High School or at the CHRO until Feb. 26.

Thereafter, all applications must be submitted to the CHRO, Building 331, Camp Foster.

You may drop off your application in the red drop off box in front of the main entrance or submit it to the clerk in the Job Information Center, Room 111.

Employment under the 2001 Summer Hire Program will last from June 25 through August 17 for students in the Okinawa middle and high schools, and from May 15 through Aug. 17 for college students. The program is open to dependent youths ages 14-23 of DoD military and U.S. civilian personnel.

For more information, call Larry Scott at 645-2475.

Kadena High School fund raiser

Kadena High School's senior class of 2001 is holding a furniture sale, Feb. 17 and 18. The sale will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 2-6 p.m. on Sunday.

Featured items will be antiques, various furniture and Persian rugs. KHS will have the sale set up in the forum area of the school.

Funds from the sale will go toward graduation, parent appreciation night and the senior picnic.

For more information, call Cheryl Aeillo at 634-1216.

Absentee ballot evaluation

A team of DoD representatives will be on island Feb. 20 to March 1 evaluating the absentee ballot process during this past presidential election.

The evaluation will consist of team meetings with Air Force and Marine Corps focus groups to solicit feedback concerning the absentee voting process.

The team will hold an open-table discussion at the Joint Reception Center on Camp Foster (Bldg. 447A) March 1 at 1:00 p.m. For more information, call Capt R. Hairston at 645-2229.

Children's dental clinic

3d Dental Battalion is supporting Children's Dental Health Month by sponsoring a Saturday Children's Clinic at the Evans, Bush and Kinser branch dental clinics. The clinics will be open from 8 a.m. to noon and will provide exams, cleanings and sealants to children, by appointment. Please call the appropriate clinic for an appointment: Evans, 645-7381; Bush, 622-7359; Kinser, 637-2828.

Membership drive luncheon

The American Society of Military Comptrollers is holding a membership drive luncheon Feb. 22 at the Camp Foster Globe and Anchor restaurant from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Lunch choices consist of either a club sandwich or a wrap (roast beef, turkey, tuna or chicken) and soup. The cost for either is \$5.

There will be a discussion during the luncheon that will give participants an introduction to and information about the ASMC and what it does for its members.

For more information, call MSgt Teddy Torres at 645-7026 or Paul Freeman at 645-2110/2174.

Caribbean Dance Party

The Caribbean Heritage Society will be having a "Caribbean Dance Party" Feb. 17 at the Camp Foster Globe and Anchor Club from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

There will be free food, door prizes, a limbo contest and lots of other entertainment.

Tickets cost \$10. For more information, call Beverly at 633-0147 or LaWanda at 633-8883.

To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to editor@mcbulter.usmc.mil or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

Hans and Frans *meet* Mr. Manners



SSGT JASON M. WEBB
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Common courtesy is something that we are not born with. It is something that is learned by example or taught by a parent. But when it comes to certain situations and places, some people don't know how to act.

One place I have seen an overall lack of etiquette is in the base gym.

To the newly initiated, who have never stepped foot in any of the gyms islandwide, it is a place somewhat like a country club. It has rules, regular patrons and an elite group of card-carrying service and family members.

Many people call the base gym their second home and spend numerous hours a week straining, pushing, pulling and sweating. Most of the time they are not the ones who need a refresher in gym manners, but sometimes, if the gym sock fits...wear it.

The first manner miscalculation is what I like to call the sit and look.

This involves someone who is there with good intentions of bettering themselves physically, but they get lost in the workout process. They usually

look at a weight machine, select the weight and then begin their workout. So far so good, but after the first set they take a really long time to finish what they started.

Single minutes turn into double digits and they are still sitting looking themselves in the wall-to-wall mirrors. Remember, lifting heavy things builds muscles, not staring in the mirror.

Next we have the sweaters. Sweating is a very natural body process, and if you are actually working out you will sweat.

The problem here lies in the puddle you left behind. The towel that you picked up when you first came in is for the puddles. Please use them because not too many people are fond of a slimy bench.



Another gym irritant is the dumbbell hoarding. I fully understand that people are there to get a good workout and sometimes that entails many different methods with heavy and lighter weights. But when people take half a rack for themselves it causes others to miss out on their workout time.

Once again, you are not the only one there, so think about those around you.

Lastly are the ones I like to call loafers. Loafers magically appear at the gym at zero dark thirty on rainy days. The easy way to tell loafers is by their location in the gym. They are usual found in the main entrance sitting on the couch and watching television. After 20 minutes of lingering and loud talking, the leader of the loafers usually gives them a game plan of "do whatever" and off they go to the nether reaches of the gym.

Some ambush the weight room and start grabbing all the weights while the others sit in the sauna.

Now, I'm not against a unit training for PT in the gym, but there has to be a plan of attack before they get there.

The main problem lies in the 20 minutes before they get their stuff together. And, if you are going to conduct actual training, check and find out if the sauna constitutes a workout.

Now that I have said my piece about proper gym etiquette, make sure you try to be aware of others around you and read the posted rules.

Remember that if we all tried a little harder with these techniques we could get in better shape in a lot less time.

What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Handling a heated situation

You are a lance corporal here on UDP and things were going pretty good until today.

Within a two hour period you learned that you have duty next week on your 21st birthday and you received a "Dear John letter" from your fiancée, who maxed-out your credit card that you left her.

You don't feel like eating lunch so you decide to go back to your room and lie down for a while.

As you enter your room you see your roommate quickly slide his seabag underneath his rack.

He looks a little nervous and asks you if you want to go to chow. You decline the offer and say that you're just going to hang out for a while.

A few minutes after he leaves, your curiosity gets the better of you so you pull out his seabag and open it up.

Your day has just gone from bad to worse.

Inside the bag are four car stereos with wires dangling, two pairs of used sunglasses and a worn-out ladies purse.

Later that evening you go back to your room and see the seabag empty and lying on his rack. Five packages are wrapped and ready to be mailed back to the States.

You confront him about the packages and he tells you that they are gifts for his family and then quickly changes the subject.

It is pretty apparent what he is doing. What do you do?

What the Marines said

Lance Corporal with 3d FSSG: "You don't rat on your friends, especially not your roommate. Even if he did steal something, you have no proof and telling someone would make you a snitch."

Corporal with 1st MAW: "I would have the Company Gunny in the room so quick it would make my roommate's head spin. In my unit there is nothing worse than a thief."

Lance Corporal with 3d MarDiv: "I would either walk him down to see the 1st sergeant or drag him. It is obvious that he is a thief. If I'm wrong then I will say sorry, but if he is a thief, I don't want to room with him or even have him in my Corps."

What the Chaplain said

Ask yourself, "Where does my loyalty lie?" Is it with a suspected thief or does your loyalty lie in doing what is right? Remember, it takes a person with true moral courage to "do the right thing, in the right way, for the right reasons."

Just because your roommate does not have the fortitude to own up to his actions, doesn't mean you have to compromise your own integrity. Let him know that if he continues to evade the truth, you have an obligation to step forward.

There is no friendship in thievery (your personal stuff could already be on its way to the States in little brown paper packages). Besides that, Honor, Courage and Commitment are traits that are forged into our character in such situations as these: Congratulations, you are living and breathing the core values in the real world!

Once you've given your roommate the opportunity to come clean, you should involve the chain of command. Inform your Company Gunny and 1st Sergeant and let them decide what appropriate action should be taken next. Place your trust and confidence in the senior leadership of your company. While it is disheartening to see a person bring dishonor and disrespect to Corps and country, do not let anyone sweat you. There are plenty of faithful and honorable Marines of all ranks who lead by example. Your actions can make a difference.

- Navy LT, Judy Malana, Chaplain, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF



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645-7423

Southern Office
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Commanding General BGen Willie J. Williams
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FAR EAST Set th

Far East Division Matches Top Shooters

1st Overall Rifle and pistol winner

SSgt D. K. Adkins, H&HS Futenma
Rifle score 586.49 and Pistol score 561.12

High Tyro (first year shooter) Rifle

Sgt S. M. Helms, MHG, III MEF
Rifle score 562.35

High Tyro Pistol

Cpl J. V. Talsma, 3d MRB, 3d FSSG
Pistol score 511.05

*The numbers after the decimal denote shots
that stuck the V at the center rifle target or the
X at the center of the pistol Target.

A spent round is caught by the camera in midair as a Far East
Division Matches rifle team member holds his position after a
focused shot from the 500 yard line at Camp Hansen's rifle range.

DIVISION MATCHES **their sites on Okinawa**



3d Transportation Support Battalion hosts 2nd Annual

III MEF Truck Rodeo



SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Motor Transportation Marines from 3d Force Service Support Group took top honors at the 2nd Annual III Marine Expeditionary Force Truck Rodeo here Feb. 5.

3d FSSG swept the event, nearly doubling the scores of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 3d Marine Division and III MEF Headquarters Group, who finished second, third and fourth respectively.

The rodeo, which was hosted by 3d Transportation Support Battalion, 3d FSSG, provided tactical vehicle operators the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and promote safe vehicle operating procedures, according to Maj Rick R. Clark, Officer-in-Charge, Logistics Movement Coordination Center, 3d FSSG.

"This truck rodeo helps us reinforce safety procedures and allows our tactical vehicle operators to hone their driving skills," Maj Clark said. "It helps to prepare us for the smaller roads and heavy traffic here in Okinawa. This makes us better neighbors to the Japanese by being safer drivers on the road."

In preparation for the rodeo, all the major subordinate commands of III MEF held their own rodeos throughout the year to identify their best vehicle operators, according to Maj Clark.

The competition event included everything from parallel parking the lengthy Logistics Vehicle System to changing a tire on 5-ton trucks.

"All the events except the written test required extensive teamwork," said Cpl Justin W. Mundy, Motor Transportation Mechanic, Marine Wing Support Squadron-172, 1st MAW. "You have to work as a team if you're going to operate safely."

"After 18 months of working together, Cpl Mundy is who I prefer to work and compete with," said Cpl Alvaro E. Cruz, Wrecker Operator, MWSS-172. "We work well together to finish our tasks safely."

The all-day event also served to promote camaraderie among all the Motor Transportation and Heavy Equipment units within III MEF, according to Maj Clark.

"There aren't many opportunities for the Motor Transportation units to get together like this," Maj Clark said. "It's an excellent event for promoting camaraderie among the four commands."

Maj Clark also said the event was an excellent opportunity to reinforce safety procedures and learn from mistakes for all participants.

"From conducting this truck rodeo, all the drivers learned what they could and could not do with their vehicles under the driving conditions here in Okinawa," Maj Clark said. "Now all that is left for these Marines to do is to safely apply the lessons learned to their every day operations."



PHOTOS BY SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS

LCpl John R. Peak, Logistics Vehicle System Operator, 3d TSB, 3d FSSG, looks to his assistant driver for directions as he parallel parks his LVS.



(above) SSgt James L. Bolt, Roadmaster, 3d FSSG and judge for the III MEF Truck Rodeo, briefs Sgt Eric Adamsen, Assistant Driver, and LCpl James H. O'Neil, Driver, both with MWCS-18, MAG-18, 1st MAW, on a mistake they made while participating in the 5-ton backing with trailer part of the competition.

(left) Cpl Juan M. Pinales, Wrecker Operator, MT Co, III MHG and LCpl Christopher C. Drews, Motor Transportation Operator, MT Co, III MHG, work together to finish the 5-ton tire changing competition during the III MEF Truck Rodeo Feb. 5.

31st MEU engages in TRUEX



PO2 CRYSTAL M. BROOKS

Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit await to be extracted by CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters during a Training in an Urban Environment Exercise in Guam, Jan. 15.

Guam exercise gives Marines a taste of urban battlefield

SSGT MICHAEL A. TURNER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

OFF THE COAST OF GUAM — The Marines and Sailors of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, kicked off the biannual Training in an Urban Environment Exercise Jan. 15 at Andersen Air Force Base on Guam.

The exercise affords the Marines of the 31st MEU the chance to sharpen their skills in small-scale urban training.

Most of the Marines and Sailors participating in the exercise embarked aboard the *USS Essex* and steamed for the coast of the small South Pacific island.

"Not knowing where the next battlefield might be, Marines must train for any scenario," said Capt Darryl W. Dotson, Assistant Operations Officer and Fire Support Officer.

One possible battlefield is in urban areas. Because of this, Marines must train for the challenges presented in this type of environment.

"The primary purpose for TRUEX is to familiarize Marines with the special considerations required when operating in an urban environment. Guam has

consistently provided the 31st MEU with the necessary training areas for training," said Capt Dotson.

"Traditionally, TRUEX has involved only the Maritime Special Purpose Force portion of the 31st MEU forces. This cycle marks the first time other elements of the MEU and its Amphibious Ready Group have been incorporated into the training," said Capt Dotson.

For this evolution, the 31st MEU embarked Alpha and Charlie Companies from Battalion Landing Team 1/5, as well as the Combined Anti-Armor Teams from Weapons Company, BLT 1/5 along with elements of Headquarters and Service Company."

The MEU brought six CH-46E, Sea Knight Helicopters and associated maintenance support from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265.

MEU Service Support Group-31 has provided a detachment to assist in supporting MEU operations while underway and on shore in Guam.

Portions of the MEU Command Element and the Commander Amphibious Squadron-11 staff were aboard, providing command and control for the exercise. Elements of III Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group were ashore providing scenario development and exercise control.

Training in an Urban Environment Exercise started with Maritime Special Purpose Force interoperability training earlier in the month on Okinawa. This training provides the opportunity for MEU reconnaissance elements to train with certain members of the BLT.

Special Operations Training Group conducts the MSPF package and provides instructors to train the Marines in the special techniques required for MSPF operations.

The MSPF comprises 100 Marines and Sailors from 3d Force Reconnaissance Detachment and portions of BLT 1/5. Following the interoperability training, the MSPF force flew to Guam and immediately began training.

This marked the first time in the MEU's eight-year history of conducting TRUEX in Guam where portions of the exercise were conducted from aboard amphibious shipping.

This change also gave the MEU staff and the crew of the *Essex* an early opportunity to work together prior to the regularly scheduled Blue/Green Sea work-ups later in the cycle.

Within five hours of the arrival of the *Essex* in Okinawa, elements of the MEU were embarked and underway to Guam.

While in Guam, the Marines and Sailors of the MEU enjoyed three days of liberty before the return trip to Okinawa.



Girl Scouts Overseas more than just cookies

LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP KINSER — A group of girls stand in a circle and raise three fingers in the sky as they say their promise to start their weekly meeting.

This group of girls is not the only group gathering for scouting each week, approximately 2,200 other girls are doing the same as they take part in USA Girl Scouts Overseas - West Pacific.

USA Girl Scout Overseas - West Pacific has 14 troop committees spread over military installations in Japan and South Korea, which include all Girl Scout levels. The organization has five program levels: Daisy, five to six years old, Brownie, six to eight years old, Junior, eight to eleven years old, Cadette, 11 to 14 years old and Senior, 14 to 17 years old.

In Okinawa, there are troops located here, Kadena Air Base, Camp Foster, and Camp Courtney.

Currently, there are 10 troops that include Daisies, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts on Okinawa.

These troops meet each week to work toward the Girl Scout mission, which is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service so that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.

The girls here work toward that mission through meetings, activities and cookie sales.

"Through cookie selling, which starts this month, the girls earn money for their troops, and for USA Girl Scouts Overseas - West Pacific," said Debbie Wanleff, Troop Leader, Junior Troop 453. "The money that they earn will help pay for all the activities that they do."

One of those activities is a two-week camping trip on Camp Hansen where the troops have participated in rappelling and visited the Jungle Warfare Training Center.

"I love when we do activities," said Dalas Miller, Girl Scout, Junior Troop 453. "Going camping and rappelling was awesome."

Living on Okinawa, these girls have the chance to have a close relationship with their Japanese counterparts.

"We had a Christmas Party for the girls and the Japanese Girl Scout Troops in December where they made



Madeline Rupp (left) and Tychell Branchcomb, both Girl Scouts, Daisy Troop 505, hold up three fingers as they say the Girl Scout promise to start their weekly meeting.

candy dishes out of popsicle sticks," said Theresa Potersnak, Adult Volunteer, Junior Troop 453. "It gave them the opportunity to talk to one another and do things together."

The Girl Scouts organization is spread all over the globe with more than 3.6 million members.

The Girl Scouts started close to one hundred years ago on March 12, 1912. Juliette Gordon Low started the organization in Savannah, Ga. The first troop had only 18 members.

In 1915, troops began to scatter and annual conventions started to take place.

Girl Scouts also helped in World War I by selling war bonds and working in hospitals. Selling cookies became important to the Girl Scouts in 1936, after the Great Depression, when it became the largest money-earning project for local troops.

The Girl Scouts also helped in World War II by

collecting scrap metal and growing victory gardens.

As the years went on, Girl Scouts grew and by 1996 GirlSports was initiated.

GirlSports is an annual event where 100,000 Girl Scouts from all over the world choose, organize and execute events like scuba diving, Tae Kwon Do, snow shoeing and rock climbing.

The GirlSports event also gives the Girl Scouts the opportunity to meet female sports stars like Rebecca Lobo, Women National Basketball Association; Bonnie Blair, Olympic speed skater; Shannon MacMillan, Women World Cup soccer; and Jenny Thompson, Olympic swimmer.

Now that Girl Scouts has grown all over the world, it can allow more and more girls to be part of this unique organization.

"I love the Girl Scouts," said Tiera Thompson, Girl Scout, Junior Troop 453. "It is a fun way of learning."

Local children thank Marines for visit

Asunaro Nursery School extends appreciation to 3d FSSG platoon

PFC DAMIAN J. MCGEE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP SCHWAB — More than 30 Okinawan children from Asunaro Nursery School recently visited here to present letters of appreciation to a proud few for coming to their school during the Christmas holiday.

Twenty-four Marines of Ammunition Platoon, Ordnance Maintenance Company, 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, volunteered to assist in repairing and beautifying certain parts of the children's school.

During the visit, the Marines ate lunch with the students, bringing smiles to the children's faces as they all embraced the holiday spirit.

"I did it because I love kids," said Cpl Melissa D. Lynem, Ammunitions Technician, OMC. "It was that, and the fact that we wanted to do something that would help others during the holiday season."

Along with improving the appearance of the school, the event helped teach the children attending the school more about American culture, according to Hajime Yamashiro, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Asunaro Nursery School.

"Events like these are good for the kids,"

Yamashiro said. "The American culture is all around Okinawa and it helps the children to be introduced to it by actual Americans."

This type of interaction will also benefit the children in the future when it comes to their encounters with people around the world, according to Yamashiro.

"I want the kids to experience as much as possible. There are so many different types of people around the world. By meeting different people and learning different cultures at a young age, the children will not grow up hesitant to deal with any group of people," Yamashiro said.

In appreciation for the Marines visiting their school, the children gladly performed a special dance for the Marines.

The children, not yet realizing the lifetime effects of this experience, took the event more lightly than their principal.

"The Americans beat the drums very well," said Hiori Kanehama, a 5-year-old Asunaro student. "It was a lot of fun and I hope they come back to visit."

According to many Marines, the event was as beneficial to them as it was for the kids. Having an opportunity to help the children during the holiday season also helped the Marines cope with the holiday season.

"It's kind of hard being a single Marine here during the Christmas season," said LCpl Benigno G. Sanchez, Ammunitions Technician, OMC. "But, going to the school helped us out a lot."



Hiori Kanehama, 5, an Asunaro Nursery School student, performs for the Marines at Camp Schwab. The children performed a special dance for the Marines of Ammo Plt, OMC, 3d MRB, 3d FSSG, who visited the school during the Christmas holiday.

Giants

take it all in

Super Bowl

Local teams clash in flag football tournament's championship series

LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP KINSER – The Giants battled hammering rain, howling winds and tough opponents to clinch the Super Bowl Flag Football Tournament title here Jan. 28.

The Giants clashed with five teams during the two-day tournament before their championship game against the Kadena T-birds, which the Giants won 6-0.

"The tournament was great. We came out here with a game plan and we executed that plan," said Dominus J. Brown, coach and quarterback for the Giants.

It was not the first time the Giants have played the T-birds in a championship game.

"We have played them in five championships," Brown said. They have three of them and we have two."

The Giants won their second championship against the T-birds by sticking to their game plan, according to Brown.

"We played hard-nose football and ran it up the middle," Brown said.

That's exactly what Brown did when he ran for 40 plus yards to score the only touchdown of the game.

The Giants accomplished their victory with only a small amount of practice time. The team, which has only been together for three months, practiced once a week, according to Brown. With only 12 practice sessions the Giants won two championships and three second-place finishes in various tournaments islandwide.

Throughout the tournament, it was cold with drizzle and strong winds. But the weather did not seem to bother the teams who vigorously fought for an advantage on the muddy field.

"It was perfect weather," Brown said. "This is what the Super Bowl should be played in."

The Giants left the field tattered and muddy. Only a few fans gathered to cheer on their team in the cold drizzle.

Although the Giants' win proved a hard earned battle, attending the awards ceremony and receiving their trophies was a welcome event.



Members of the H-Town team line up on the line of scrimmage.



PHOTOS BY LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT

Dwayne Metoyer, T-bird player, clashes with one of his teammates in the air as both players reach for the ball during their 25-0 win over the Storm.



Seth Baraah, U.S. Naval Hospital team, tries to break through a tackle during the game against the Wolverines.



Chiyoko Kochi, Community Relations Specialist, Camp Hansen, pulls ripe tangerines from a tree in an orchard found north of Nago City. The orchard, located in the mountainous area of Izumi, opens its small paths to visitors during the "tankan" picking season starting in early January and continuing through February.



In northern Okinawa, many tangerine orchards have opened their gates to visitors as sweet tangerines ripen and wait to be picked. Two kinds of tangerines are most common on the island. The smaller version ripens and is harvested in November.

Izumi hills offer sweet rewards

Photos and story
by Cpl Kimberly S. Dowell

IZUMI, Okinawa — If you've been thinking about picking some local citrus, it's time to head for the hills. Tangerine-picking season is winding down in Izumi.

By the end of February, the only reminder of an annual Okinawan tradition will be empty green trees and scattered bits of wrinkled fruit rind.

Izumi, an agricultural area found in the lower hills of the Motobu Peninsula, is home to many tangerine growers. For the last 24 years, the growers have opened their orchards to visitors starting in early October. This open invitation to pick tangerines remains through February.

"The time to pick tangerines is long, but the kinds of tangerines that can be picked are different from month to month," said Shizu Shimada, tangerine grower. "The kind growing now, *tankan*, is the prettiest and probably the sweetest."

Early in the season, *kaabuchi* and *onshu* hang from the trees. These types of tangerines have tough skins and taste sour, according to Shimada. In November, the *ohotoh* tangerine ripens. It is smaller and less colorful than the *tankan*.

Visitors pay an average of 250 yen to enter an orchard. Tangerines eaten while picking are free. Prices vary per kilogram for fruit gathered to take home.

Shimada charges her customers 250 yen per kilogram for the tangerines they take home. Customers pay double or more per kilogram when buying tangerines in a grocery store.

Many people come each year for the lower prices, according to Shimada. But many others come as sort of a family tradition.

Chiyoko Kochi, Camp Hansen Community Relations Specialist, visits the tangerine orchards each year to gather fruit to send to friends and family.

"The tough skin lets me keep the fruit for about 20 days, which makes it great to ship to family in mainland Japan," Kochi said.

The tangerines grown in Okinawa are unique for their hardiness and sweet flavor. Eighty-year-old Shimada often wanders into the orchard with her customers, encouraging them to taste the fruit from different trees. She and her husband have operated the orchard for more than 60 years, and they have come to know the land and the trees like old friends.

"Each tree offers its own flavor, its own softness," Shimada said. "I like for my customers to find the tangerines they like best."

The tangerines grown here are not widely exported to the rest of the world. The fruits' freckly, dimpled skin and the relatively small output of the Izumi orchards limit the feasibility of exporting.

Okinawa's weather also hampers widespread exporting, as typhoons and storms greatly reduce the number of tangerines produced.

"It goes one year-good, then one year-bad," Shimada said. "This year we had a lot of wind and typhoons so, much of the fruit fell to the ground before it ripened. Also, the cooler weather means the *tankan* are a little smaller."

But the people still come, many making the trip from Naha and even mainland Japan, to gather a basket of sweet, orange *tankan*.

Shimada's orchard offers narrow, winding paths through the small fruit trees. The sweet smell of cherry blossoms and ripe tangerines mix in the air. Large bunches of the fruits hang only two to three feet off the ground. Throughout the orchard, bamboo stalks support these heavy branches. The supports keep the fruit from resting on the ground where it would rot.

Shimada's and her fellow tangerine growers' efforts to produce sweet, healthy tangerines pay off in yen and in the cultural experience for their visitors.

"I see many families every year," Shimada said. "Okinawans bring their American friends so that they can enjoy an Okinawan tradition. Tangerine picking is like another holiday for us."

To get to the orchards, follow Highway 58 through Nago City to Route 84. Turn left onto Route 84, and look for the tangerine-picking signs.



Chiyoko Kochi, Community Relations Specialist, Camp Hansen, places tangerines in a basket. Kochi shares her fruit with the Marines she works with and with her relatives on mainland Japan.



AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

1985 Yamaha 700 — \$3,000 OBO. Luis, 636-2627 or 646-4511.
1988 Honda Prelude — JCI Dec 01, \$1,700 OBO. 090-9785-2197.
1986 Pajero 4x4 — JCI Jul 01, \$4,000 OBO. 622-5141.
1991 Toyota Carina — JCI May 02, \$2,300 OBO. 637-4265.
1987 Mitsubishi Delica — JCI Dec 02, \$1,700 OBO. 637-3939.
1988 Honda Prelude — JCI Mar 02, \$1,200 OBO. 636-4618.
1989 300ZX — JCI Feb 03, \$5,800 OBO. **1991 Nissan Bluebird** — JCI Nov 02, \$2,400. 636-3005.
1989 Toyota Chaser — JCI Jan 02, \$175. Harold, 645-2952.
1990 Honda Civic — JCI Sep 01, \$1,900 OBO. **1986 Toyota Corolla** — JCI Sep 01, \$400. SSgt Turberville, 637-2482.
1990 Nissan Pulsar — JCI Nov 01, \$1,500 OBO. Ken, 622-8232.
1991 Nissan Silvia — JCI Dec 01, \$700. David, 645-6251.
1991 Mitsubishi Diamante — JCI Jul 02, \$2,000 OBO. 623-6184.
1989 Toyota Chaser — JCI Jan 03, \$2,800 OBO. 646-3119.
1994 Honda Cynos — JCI Jan 03, \$2,500 OBO. 646-3045.
1986 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jan 02, \$1,600. 645-4273.
1989 Honda Accord — JCI Oct 01, \$1,100. 632-3181.
1990 Toyota Carina — JCI Apr 01, \$1,700 OBO. 622-5328.
1998 HD 1200 — \$9,000. Phil, 646-8524 or 636-1175.
1989 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jan 03, \$3,400 OBO. 646-5348.
1991 Nissan Presoa — JCI Jan 03, \$2,000. **1989 BMW** — \$500 OBO. **1991 Nissan Maxima** — JCI Sep 01, \$2,600. 637-4097.
1992 Honda City — JCI Dec 02, \$1,800. Latresa, 646-5747.
1988 Honda Prelude — JCI Dec 01, \$1,800 OBO. 090-9785-2197.
1993 Toyota Exiv — JCI Feb 02, \$3,500 OBO. 646-4289.
1986 Honda Shad 1100cc — \$1,800. Neil, 876-6062.

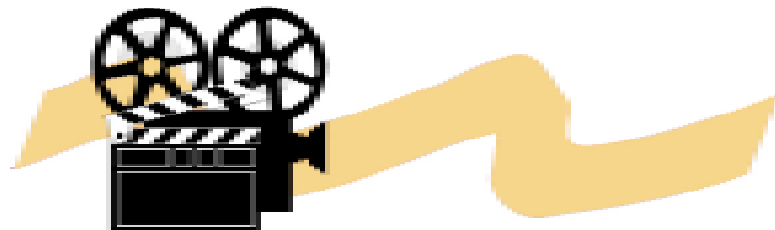


MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. — Burgandy Drapes, \$175 and Sealy Mattress and box spring set, \$250. SSgt Turberville, 637-2482.
Misc. — Beige German sofa w/(2) chairs, \$60; (4) Scandavian Kitchen chairs, \$30 and (2) bambo twin beds, \$15. 645-2952.
Pet — FTGH Golden Brown Traditional Japanese Sheba dog. Housebroken, shots and spayed. 890-4822 after 7 p.m.
Piano — Spinnet Piano, \$1,200. 622-5141.
Misc. — Patio Canopy 10x20, \$100. 633-1337.
Misc. — Dehumidifier, \$75 and 2000 watt transformer, \$70. Tom or Deb, 632-3257 or 622-9460.
Misc. — (2) Gemini XL 500 turntables, Gemini PMX mixer, Technics head phones, (2) turntable cartridges, Odyssey (80 LP case) and (50) house and underground records, \$750. 637-3070.
Misc. — Queen Bed Serta Perfect Sleeper, \$40; Toddler Canopy Bed w/mattress, \$50; crib w/mattress, \$40; bakers rack, \$85; Little Tykes pool w/slide, \$30; shed, \$300; sit/stand stroller, \$35; and stroller w/shade and basket, \$35. 622-5178.
Misc. — Eight channel Futaba Radio Control plane w/all access, NIB. Large Piper cub almost ready to fly, \$500. 622-9347
Textbooks — UMUC-GVPT 170 book, \$35; CTC-Math 1307 college algebra book with solution manual, \$65; and ECON 1301 with additional subject book, \$30. 646-5042.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbutler.usmc.mil

Coming to a theater near you ...



Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. **Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes.** Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Courtney (622-9616)

Fri Valentine (R); 7:00
Sat Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00
Sun Men of Honor (R); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Closed
Wed Charlies Angels (PG13); 7:00
Thu Closed

Hansen (623-4564)

Fri Antitrust (PG13); 6:00, 9:00
Sat Antitrust (PG13); 6:00, 9:00
Sun The 6th Day (PG13); 2:00, 5:30
Mon Woman On Top (R); 7:00
Tue Woman On Top (R); 7:00
Wed Pay It Forward (PG13); 7:00
Thu Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00

Butler

(645-3465)

Fri What Women Want (PG13); 7:00, 10:00
Sat 102 Dalmations (G); 1:00, 4:00
Sat What Women Want (PG13); 7:00, 10:00

Sun 102 Dalmations (PG); 1:00
Sun The 6th Day (PG13); 4:00, 7:00
Mon Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00
Tue The 6th Day (PG13); 7:00
Wed The 6th Day (PG13); 7:00
Thu Valentine (R); 7:00

Kinser

(637-2177)

Fri Men of Honor (R); 7:00
Sat Most Valuable Primate (PG); 3:00
Sat The 6th Day (PG13); 7:00, 11:30
Sun Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Woman On Top (R); 7:00
Wed Valentine (R); 7:00
Thu Pay It Forward (PG13); 7:00

Keystone

(634-1869)

Fri Thirteen Days (PG13); 6:30
Sat 102 Dalmations (G); 1:00
Sat Thirteen Days (PG13); 5:30
Sat Valentine (R); 9:00
Sun Closed
Mon Dude, Where's My Car (PG13); 7:00

Mon The 6th Day (PG13); 8:00
Tue Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00
Wed Cast Away (PG13); 7:00
Thu Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00

Schwab

(625-2333)

Fri Lost Souls (R); 7:00
Sat Dr. T & The Women (R); 6:00
Sat Men of Honor (R); 9:00
Sun Dr. T & The Women (R); 3:00
Sun Men of Honor (R); 6:00
Mon Valentine (R); 7:00
Tue Valentine (R); 7:00
Wed Closed
Thu Bedazzled (PG13); 7:00

Futenma

(636-3890)

Fri Charlies Angels (PG13); 7:30
Sat Men of Honor (R); 6:00
Sun Dr. T & The Women (R); 6:00
Mon The Pledge (R); 7:30
Tue Closed
Wed Men of Honor (R); 7:30
Thu Closed



Check Futenma Theaters for show times.



Check Keystone, Butler, Kinser and Hansen Theaters for show times.



Check Courtney, Kinser, Futenma and Schwab Theaters for show times.